BOOK 2

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

Asterix IN SPAIN



Asterix

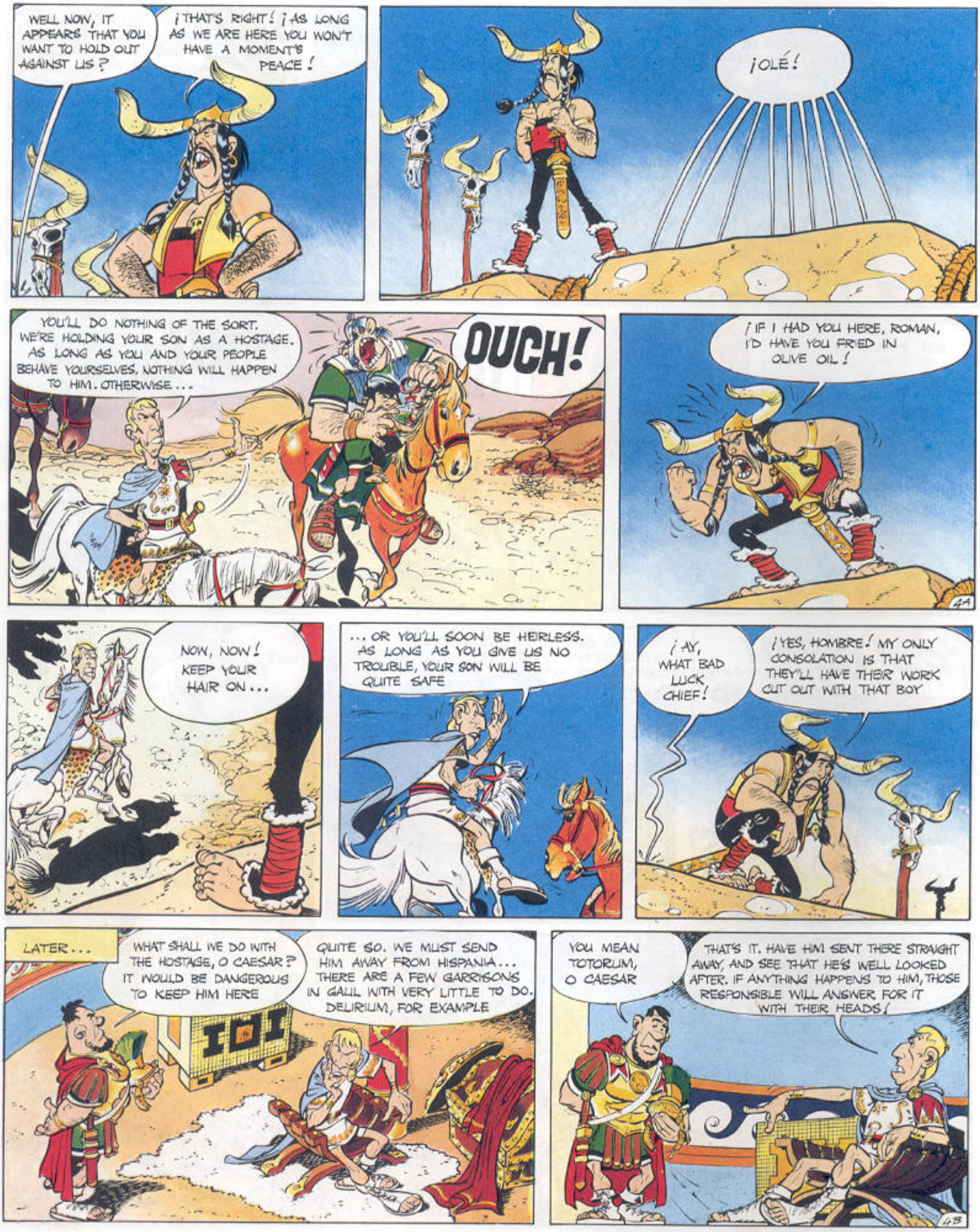
HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS


TODAY, MARCH 17TH, 45 BC (LATER, OF COURSE, ST. PATRIX DAY), ALL IS PEACEFUL IN THE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE WE KNOW SO WELL. THIS TRANQUILLITY IS ABOUT TO BE DISTURBED, HOWEVER, BY EVENTS FAR AWAY IN LOWER HISPANIA...
FRESH FISH – IT'S LUVERLY!
WHO'LL BUY MY FINE FISH?
HOW ABOUT SOME, FOR A CHANGE?
A CHANGE FROM WHAT? I'VE ONLY EATEN TWO BOARS SO FAR TODAY!
UNHYGIENIX FISHMONGER
ONE YEAR AFTER HIS VICTORY OVER THE SUPPORTERS OF POMPEY AT THAPSUS, CAESAR HAS JUST MOPPED UP THE SURVIVORS AT MUNDA*, BRINGING THE WHOLE OF HISPANIA UNDER THE ROMAN YOKE...
LEGIONARIES, CAESAR IS PLEASED WITH YOU!
* MONTILLA
BEFORE GOING BACK TO ROME, WHERE A GREAT TRIUMPH AWAITS HIM, JULIUS CAESAR INSPECTS HIS OLD GUARD, THE GLORIOUS Xth LEGION.
THIS CHARMING GESTURE ASTONISHES SOME IBERIANS WHO HAPPEN TO BE WATCHING.
¡AY, HOMBRE! ¿WHY ARE THEY LENDING HIM THEIR EARS?
I THINK HE HAS THEIR EARS BECAUSE HE FOUGHT SO WELL
AND THE IBERIANS, BEING A PROUD AND NOBLE RACE, ARE ALWAYS READY TO ADMIRE BRAVE WARRIORS.
¡OLÉ!

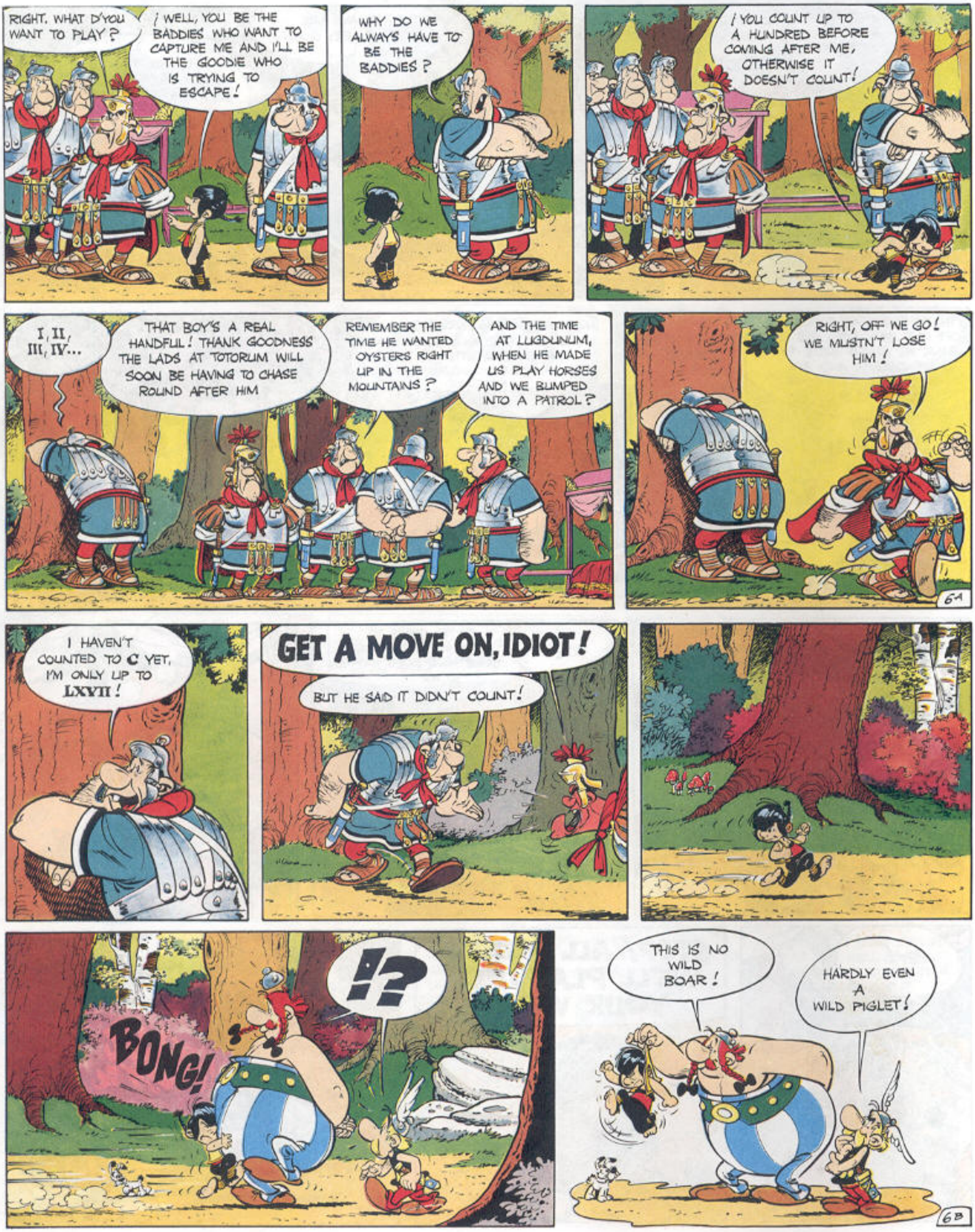


WELL, WELL! MY OLD LAURELS, ALL CRUMPLED UP! I MUST HAVE RESTED ON THEM ONE NIGHT, BY MISTAKE!
AVE, CAESAR!
AVE, AVE, MY DEAR FELLOW! SO IT'S VENI, VIDI, VICI ONCE AGAIN, WHAT, BY JUPITER!
NOT QUITE VICI YET, I'M AFRAID, NOT QUITE VICI...
THERE'S A LITTLE VILLAGE, NOT FAR FROM MUNDA, WHOSE INHABITANTS ARE REFUSING TO INTEGRATE WITH THE ROMAN WORLD. THEY STILL HOLD OUT...
2A
I KNOW, I KNOW... THEY STILL HOLD OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. I'VE SEEN THAT SOMEWHERE BEFORE!
I SHALL LOOK INTO THE MATTER PERSONALLY. I MUST HAVE PEACE IN THE PROVINCES. TAKE ME TO THEIR LEADER!
SOON AFTERWARDS...
AND YET THE NATIVES SEEMED QUITE INDIFFERENT TO OUR SQUABBLES
THEY WERE PROBABLY WAITING TO SEE WHO WON SO THEY'D KNOW WHO TO HOLD OUT AGAINST
¡HALT, ROMANS!
2B


¡ YOU SHALL NOT PASS !
AND HOW AM I TO ADDRESS MY YOUNG AND REDOUBTABLE ENEMY ?
¡ I AM THE SON OF HUEVOS Y BACON, THE CHIEF OF THAT VILLAGE OVER THERE !
GET HIM !
POC!
OW!
OOOH!
POC!
OUCH!...
HIS SLING! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, CONFISCATE HIS SLING!
RIGHT! ON WE GO!
OUCH!... HE PINCHED MY EAR!
YOU CAN SEE THAT CHILD HAS NOBLE BLOOD IN HIM!
WE'RE COMING TO THE VILLAGE, O CAESAR!
AVE!
¡ OLÉ !
CAESAR WISHES TO SPEAK TO THE CHIEF OF THIS VILLAGE!
¡ SPEAK ! HUEVOS Y BACON IS LISTENING


WELL NOW, IT APPEARS THAT YOU WANT TO HOLD OUT AGAINST US?
¡THAT'S RIGHT! ¡AS LONG AS WE ARE HERE YOU WON'T HAVE A MOMENT'S PEACE!
¡OLÉ!
YOU'LL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT. WE'RE HOLDING YOUR SON AS A HOSTAGE. AS LONG AS YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE BEHAVE YOURSELVES, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO HIM. OTHERWISE...
OUCH!
¡IF I HAD YOU HERE, ROMAN, I'D HAVE YOU FRIED IN OLIVE OIL!
NOW, NOW! KEEP YOUR HAIR ON...
... OR YOU'LL SOON BE HEIRLESS. AS LONG AS YOU GIVE US NO TROUBLE, YOUR SON WILL BE QUITE SAFE
¡AY, WHAT BAD LUCK CHIEF!
¡YES, HOMBRE! MY ONLY CONSOLATION IS THAT THEY'LL HAVE THEIR WORK CUT OUT WITH THAT BOY
LATER...
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE HOSTAGE, O CAESAR? IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO KEEP HIM HERE
QUITE SO. WE MUST SEND HIM AWAY FROM HISPANIA... THERE ARE A FEW GARRISONS IN GAUL WITH VERY LITTLE TO DO. DELIRIUM, FOR EXAMPLE
YOU MEAN TOTORUM, O CAESAR
THAT'S IT. HAVE HIM SENT THERE STRAIGHT AWAY, AND SEE THAT HE'S WELL LOOKED AFTER. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIM, THOSE RESPONSIBLE WILL ANSWER FOR IT WITH THEIR HEADS!


DOGMATIX AND I ARE OFF BOAR HUNTING! ARE YOU COMING, ASTERIX?
COMING, OBELIX!
THE ROMANS ARE KEEPING VERY QUIET!
OH WELL, THEY'VE BEEN BEATEN UP SO MANY TIMES THEY'RE FED UP
THAT'S RIGHT. WE'VE FINISHED OFF OUR OWN LOT... DO YOU THINK WE COULD WRITE TO JULIUS CAESAR AND ASK HIM TO SEND US SOME NEW ONES?
MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST...
NO, NO, AND FOR THE THIRD TIME NO! YOU'VE RUINED THE WHOLE JOURNEY WITH YOUR WHIMS! YOU'VE BITTEN US, YOU'VE GOT US DOWN, YOU'VE WORN OUR NERVES TO SHREDS...
5A
AND NOW WE'RE ALMOST AT TOTORUM YOU WANT TO STOP AND PLAY! NO!
DON'T FORGET, O SPURIUS BRONTOSAURUS, IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME YOU'LL ANSWER FOR IT WITH YOUR HEAD!
SO?
SO I'M GOING TO HOLD MY BREATH UNTIL SOMETHING DOES HAPPEN TO ME
HEY!
STOP! ALL RIGHT, WE'LL PLAY IT YOUR WAY!
5B
PHEW! I BREATHE AGAIN!


RIGHT. WHAT D'YOU WANT TO PLAY?
¡ WELL, YOU BE THE BADDIES WHO WANT TO CAPTURE ME AND I'LL BE THE GOODIE WHO IS TRYING TO ESCAPE!
WHY DO WE ALWAYS HAVE TO BE THE BADDIES?
¡ YOU COUNT UP TO A HUNDRED BEFORE COMING AFTER ME, OTHERWISE IT DOESN'T COUNT!
I, II, III, IV...
THAT BOY'S A REAL HANDFUL! THANK GOODNESS THE LADS AT TOTORUM WILL SOON BE HAVING TO CHASE ROUND AFTER HIM
REMEMBER THE TIME HE WANTED OYSTERS RIGHT UP IN THE MOUNTAINS?
AND THE TIME AT LUGDUNUM, WHEN HE MADE US PLAY HORSES AND WE BUMPED INTO A PATROL?
RIGHT, OFF WE GO! WE MUSTN'T LOSE HIM!
6A
I HAVEN'T COUNTED TO C YET, I'M ONLY UP TO LXVII!
GET A MOVE ON, IDIOT!
BUT HE SAID IT DIDN'T COUNT!
BONG!
!?
THIS IS NO WILD BOAR!
HARDLY EVEN A WILD PIGLET!
6B


¡LET ME GO! ¡THERE ARE SOME BADDIES AFTER ME!
BADDIES?
DON'T YOU WORRY. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM
THERE HE IS!
POF!
CLING!
GAULS!
ROMANS!
BRAND NEW ONES!
ER... KINDLY HAND OVER THAT CHILD
COME AND GET HIM!
CHAAAR...
BIFF! BOMM! TCHAC! CLANG!
GRRRR!
¡OLÉ!
?
MOLESTING A CHILD! I'VE A GOOD MIND TO STRAIGHTEN THEM OUT SOME MORE!


WE'LL TAKE YOU TO OUR VILLAGE
WHAT'S YOUR NAME ?
¡ HUEVOS Y BACON! I COME FROM HISPANIA
OOOUCH!
HE BIT ME!
I AM THE SON OF A CHIEF. PEOPLE OUGHT TO SHOW ME RESPECT. DADDY SAID SO
GRRRRR!
VERY WELL, SON OF A CHIEF, WE'LL TAKE YOU TO THE TOP MAN IN OUR VILLAGE!
GRGNNNNN.... RESPECT! HUH!
8 A
SOON AFTERWARDS...
AND WHY WERE THE ROMANS AFTER YOU, MY LITTLE ONE ?
¡ WHAT A BIG NOSE YOU HAVE!
GRGMFFFFF!
OBELIX!
HUMPH! TAKE HIM AWAY! WE'LL GO ON WITH THIS CONVERSATION AFTER MY AFTERNOON NAP!
MEANWHILE, IN THE TENT OF CENTURION RAUCUS HALLELUJACHORUS, OFFICER IN COMMAND OF THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF TOTORUM...
HARD LUCK, BRONTOSAURUS! WHEN CAESAR HEARS THAT THE GAULS HAVE GOT HOLD OF YOUR HOSTAGE, YOU'LL BE FOR THE CIRCUS!
IS THAT SO ? AND SUPPOSE I TELL CAESAR THAT YOU DIDN'T HELP ME TO RECAPTURE THE HOSTAGE, WE'D MAKE A FINE DOUBLE ACT IN THE CIRCUS THEN!
YOU'RE REVOLTING!
A GOOD THING TOO! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE WITH THE LIONS!
8 B


LET ME DO THE TALKING... YOU DON'T KNOW THESE GAULS!
GAULS OR NOT, WE NEED THIS HOSTAGE!
STOP PUSHING AT THE BACK THERE!
NOT SO FAST UP AT THE FRONT!
NOW, BE CAREFUL! ONE WORD OUT OF PLACE, AND WE'LL BE FOR IT!
AVE! WE WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOUR CHIEF
ACTUALLY WE'RE HAVING OUR AFTERNOON KIP. EVERYONE'S RESTING
IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!
I'LL GO AND SEE...
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
TERRIBLY SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, CHIEF, BUT WE'D LIKE TO PICK UP A LITTLE BOY WHO...
YAWN!
NOTHING DOING! COME ON, BOYS, LET'S GO BACK TO SLEEP WITHOUT WAKING THE OTHERS
!?!
CHARGE!
BY TOUTATIS!
!!!
BY BELENOS!
LEAVE THEM TO ME!
WHO'S HE ON ABOUT?
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
SPLAT!
BRAAOUM!


THE BATTLE IS SHORT, OWING TO THE CLEVER MANOEUVRES CARRIED OUT BY THE LEGIONARIES, NOTABLY A SKILFUL WITHDRAWAL TOWARDS PREVIOUSLY PREPARED POSITIONS ...
FOR A FEW OF THEM, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO MANOEUVRE ...
WHAT WAS THAT ?
THAT WAS A WORD OUT OF PLACE !
MEANWHILE ...
THE ROMANS REALLY WANT THIS CHILD ! I WISH I KNEW WHY !
YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW THE REASON WHY WE'RE FIGHTING TOO, WOULD YOU, CHIEF ?
WELL, SONNY ? TELL US WHAT BROUGHT YOU FROM HISPANIA TO GAUL
10A
MY DADDY IS THE STRONGEST DADDY IN THE WORLD AND SILLY OLD JULIUS CAESAR IS FRIGHTENED OF MY DADDY AND SILLY OLD JULIUS CAESAR HAD ME BROUGHT TO GAUL TO FRIGHTEN MY DADDY BUT THAT WON'T STOP MY DADDY BASHING SILLY OLD JULIUS CAESAR
¡OLÉ!
A HOSTAGE ! HE'S A HOSTAGE ! WE MUST PROTECT HIM FROM THE ROMANS. HE MUST NOT LEAVE THE VILLAGE !
OBELIX ! I'M HANDING THIS LITTLE TERROR OVER TO YOU. AND DON'T FORGET THAT AS YOUR GUEST, HE'S SACRED !
YOU MEAN HE'S A HOLY TERROR ?
WHAT'S YOUR FIRST NAME, SON OF A CHIEF ?
PERICLES. WE'VE GOT SOME GREEK ANCESTORS. AT HOME THEY CALL ME PEPE
10B


HOW STUPID OF US! IT'S ALL ALL RIGHT!
BEATI PAUPERES SPIRITU, AND I SHOULD KNOW!
IT COMES TO THE SAME THING WHETHER IT'S US OR THE GAULS WHO LOOK AFTER THE HOSTAGE! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS MAKE SURE THEY DON'T TAKE HIM ANYWHERE ELSE!
YOU'RE RIGHT! I'LL STATION LOOK-OUT MEN ALL ROUND THE VILLAGE!
THAT'S THE WAY!
AND THE BEST OF IT IS THAT THE GAULS WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE LITTLE MONSTER! SEE HOW THEY LIKE IT!
SURE ENOUGH....
¡ THIS IS A DEAD BORE!
A BOAR - BORING?
THERE ISN'T ANYTHING ELSE, ANYWAY
¡ VERY WELL! ¡ I'M GOING TO HOLD MY BREATH UNTIL THERE IS!
?
ER... SAUSAGES? HAM? BLACK PUDDING? BACON? AQUAE SULIS CHAPS? FISH?
¡ FISH! ¡ I WANT FISH!
OBELIX, GO AND BUY SOME FISH
BUT I HAVEN'T FINISHED MY BOAR! IT'LL GET COLD
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING!


YOU DON'T OFTEN COME BUYING FISH!
WELL, I WANT SOME NOW, AND FAST! MY BOAR'S GETTING COLD!
UNHYGIENIX FISHMONGER
I'LL TAKE THIS ONE
THREE SESTERTII
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY!
THEN YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH EITHER!
?
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! YOU CAN PAY ME WITH A MENHIR. WE CAN ALWAYS DO WITH A MENHIR ABOUT THE PLACE
OH, YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER ABOUT THE FISH ANY MORE, OBELIX. PEPE TRIED SOME BOAR. HE LIKED IT....
IN FACT, HE ATE YOURS TOO!
OOOOOUCH!
¡HE WAS GOING TO HIT ME WITH THAT FISH!
HE BIT ME!


AND DON'T FORGET THAT AS YOUR GUEST THIS CHILD IS SACRED, OBELIX, SO CALM DOWN!
¡ I WANT TO PLAY!
PLAY WITH DOGMATIX! I HAVE TO SEE A MAN ABOUT A FISH
SOON AFTERWARDS...
RETURNING YOUR FISH? YOU MUST BE MAD! I DON'T HIRE MY FISH OUT!
FISHMONGER
YELPYELPYELPYELPYELPY
CLANGCLING
DOGMATIX! WAIT FOR ME!
I'M GOING TO SMACK YOUR BOTTOM, BY TOUTATIS!
¡ DON'T FORGET THAT AS YOUR GUEST I'M SACRED, SO CALM DOWN!
OBELIX! YOOHOO!
YOU FORGOT YOUR FISH!
SPLATCH!
THAT'S WHAT I THINK OF YOUR FISH!
YOU CAN THINK WHAT YOU LIKE, SEEING AS YOU BOUGHT IT



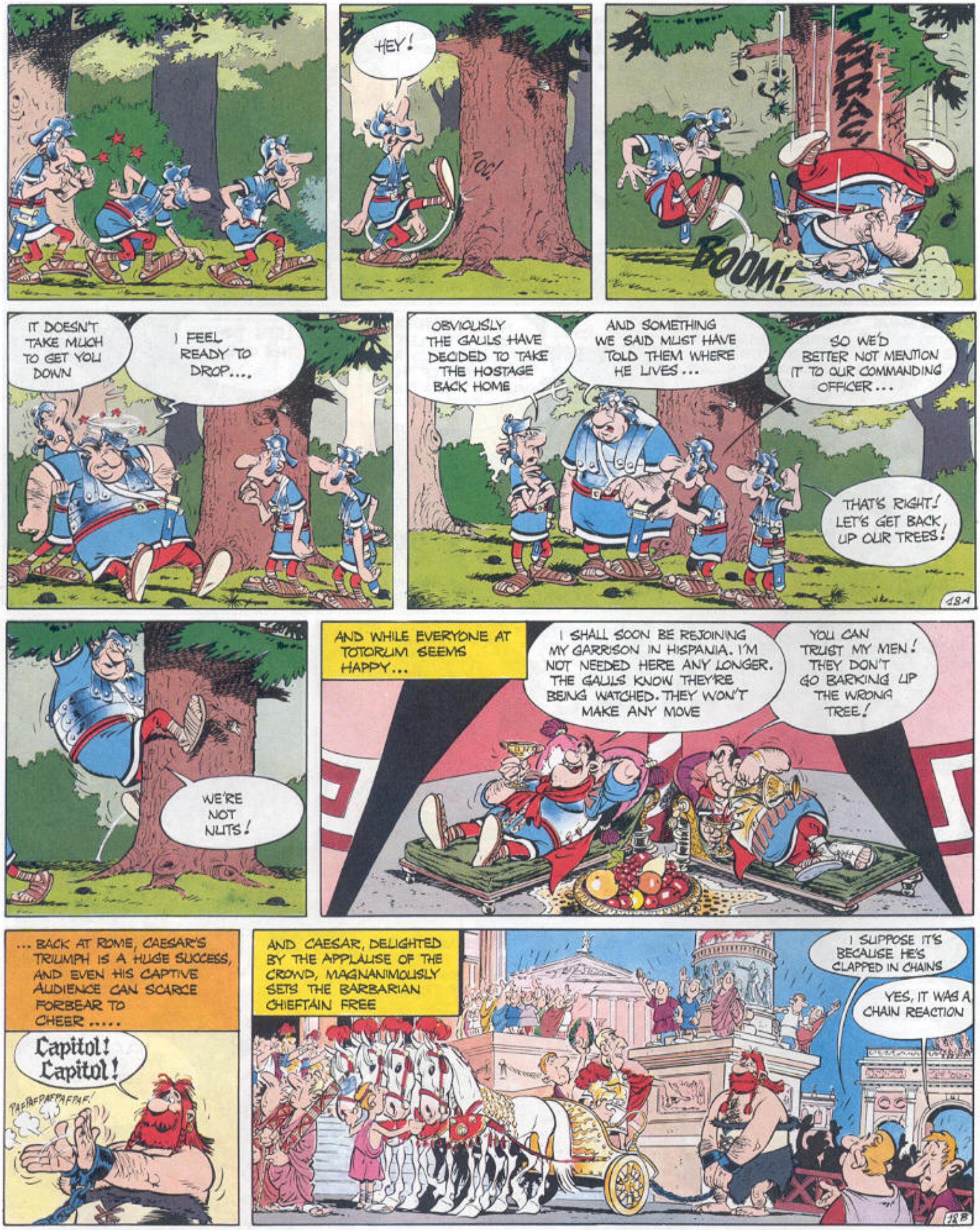
WHOSE IS THIS FISH THAT LANDED IN MY FACE?
?
IT'S HIS. HE HIRED IT OUT TO ME!
LOOK HERE...
PLAFF!
SLAP! SLAP! SLAP!
MISSED! YOU MISSED!
YOU MI...
THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO THROW FISH AT PEOPLE'S HEADS!
PLAFF!
?
BONK!
YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS!
POC!
HEY, BOYS, A FIGHT!
COME ON! IT'LL BE A CHANGE TO FIGHT EACH OTHER!
¡OLÉ!
WOOF!


O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX, COME QUICK! THERE'S A FIGHT IN THE VILLAGE!
WHAT?
FORWARD, BOYS! AT THE DOUBLE!
WAIT FOR ME! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO BEND DOWN WHEN WE GO OUT OF THE HOUSE?
15A
STOP IT, BY BELENOS! YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES, TREATING OUR YOUNG GUEST TO THIS DISGRACEFUL EXHIBITION!
EVERYONE GO HOME! IN A QUIET AND DIGNIFIED MANNER!
HEY! YOU FORGOT YOUR FISH
I'M SICK OF THIS FISH!
?!
WHO DID THAT?
15B

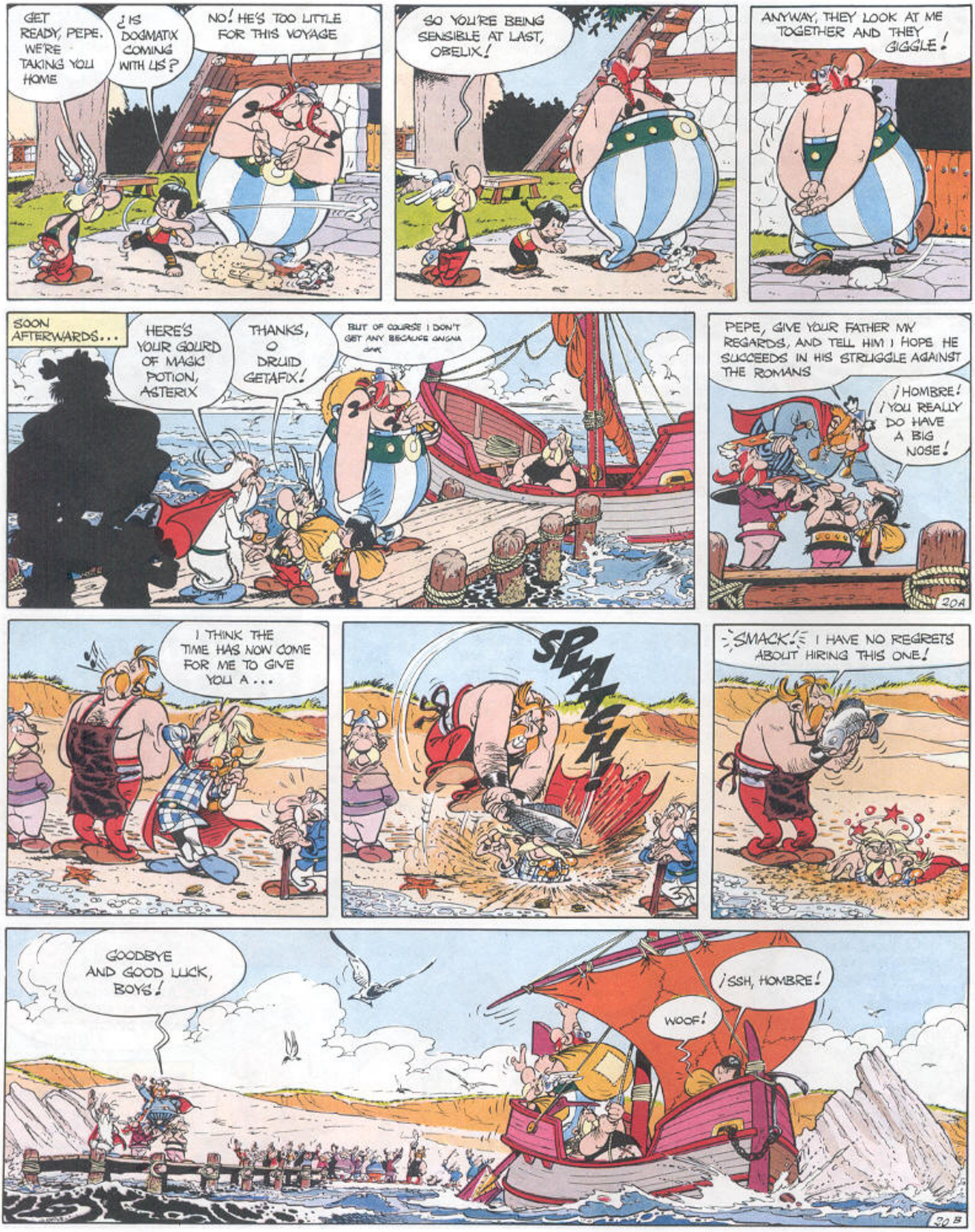


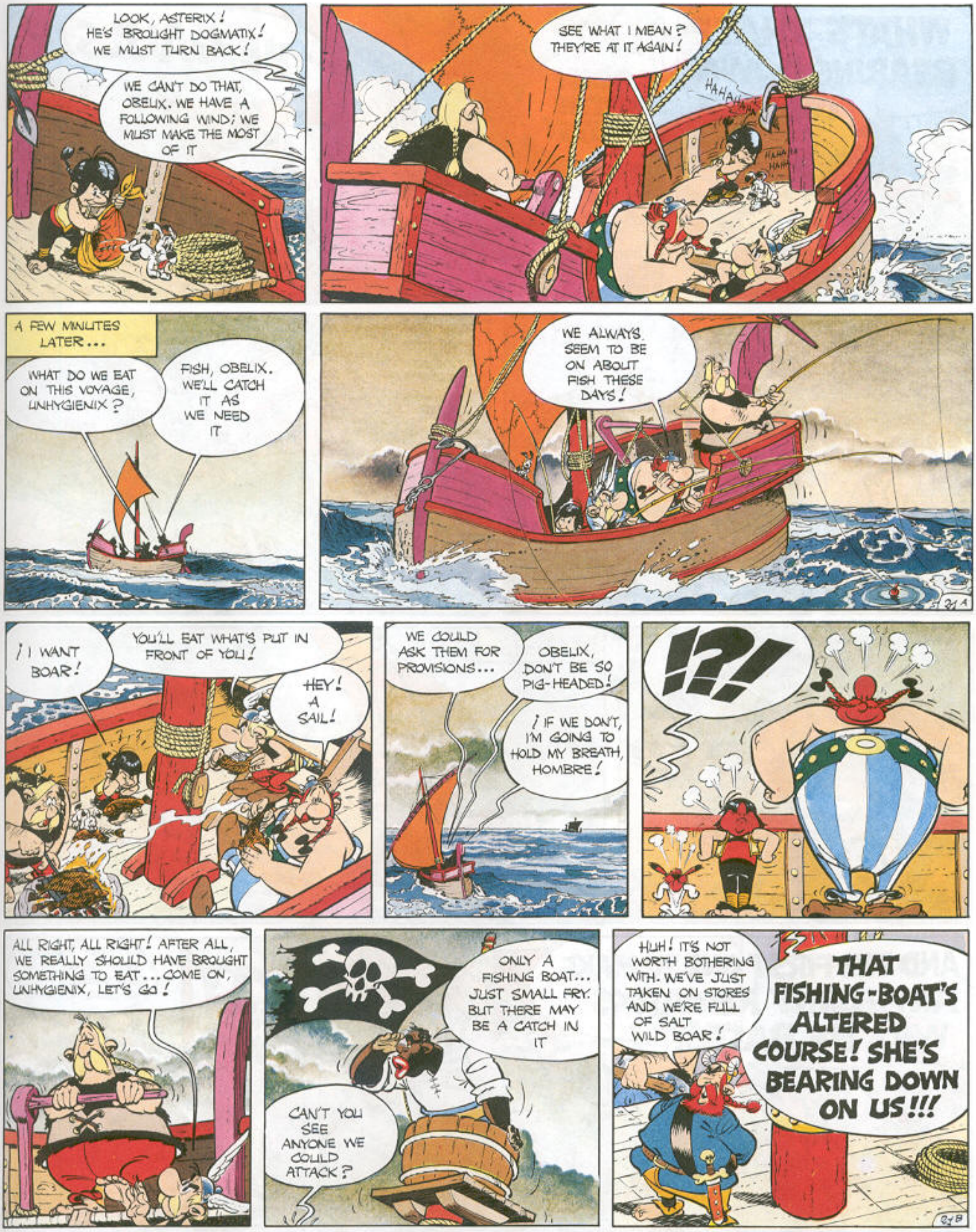
PEPE MAY BE A NUISANCE, BUT HE'S BEEN HITTING IT OFF WELL WITH DOGMATIX SINCE THE FIGHT!
PEPE IS A BAD EXAMPLE TO DOGMATIX! HE'S YOUNG AND EASILY LED... SOMETIMES THEY WHISPER TOGETHER AND LOOK AT ME AND GIGGLE...
WE USED TO GET ON WELL TOGETHER, ME AND DOGMATIX, AND NOW...
WAIT A MINUTE! I THINK I'VE GOT IT...
O BARD CACOFONIX, WOULD YOU LIKE TO LOOK AFTER PEPE AT YOUR PLACE?
IF HE'D LIKE TO COME, IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE!
SOON AFTERWARDS...
I SHALL NOW SING YOU SOME LULLABIES TO SEND YOU TO SLEEP!
SURE ENOUGH....
I'M DREAMING OF A WHITE SOLSTICE...
TOING! CLONG!
?!
¡OLÉ! ¡IT REMINDS ME OF HOME, ESPECIALLY THE GOATS! ¡ANOTHER ONE, HOMBRE, ANOTHER ONE!
ROCKABYE, PEPE, ON THE TREE TOP...
WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL DUROVERNUM...
I CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER! BACTERIA! BRING ME A FISH...A BIG ONE!
THE ONE THE CHIEF HIT YOU WITH?
YOU KNOW, ASTERIX, I'M BEGINNING TO THINK IT IS OUR MORAL DUTY TO RESTORE THAT CHILD TO ITS PARENTS
YES, IT'S A QUESTION OF MORALE


NEXT DAY ...
WHERE IS YOUR VILLAGE, PEPE?
¡ I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS, BUT IT'S THE BEST VILLAGE IN THE WORLD AND MY HOUSE IS THE BEST HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE AND YOU STILL HAVE A BIG NOSE!
THOSE ARE NOT ADEQUATE DIRECTIONS...
IF HE'S TOO SMALL TO TELL US WHERE HE LIVES, IT'S GOING TO BE TRICKY TAKING HIM BACK HOME
THE ROMANS KNOW WHERE HE LIVES. WE ONLY HAVE TO ASK THEM
GOOD IDEA! THEY'VE STATIONED LOOK-OUTS ALL ROUND OUR VILLAGE, SO WE WON'T HAVE FAR TO GO
SOON AFTERWARDS...
WE MUST CHOOSE TREES WITH PLENTY OF FOLIAGE AND A GOOD VIEW OF THE VILLAGE. THEY'LL PROVIDE THE BEST PICKINGS
LET'S TRY THIS ONE!
AHA! THIS LOOKS LIKE THE PICK OF THE BUNCH!
BOOM!
WHERE EXACTLY DOES THE HOSTAGE COME FROM?
HIS VILLAGE IS A LITTLE WAY TO THE SOUTH OF HISPALIS.* CAN I GET BACK UP MY TREE NOW?
* SEVILLE
HEY! ASTERIX!
THEY'RE NOT SO BIG HERE, BUT THERE ARE MORE OF THEM! SHALL WE TRY ANOTHER TREE?
NO, OBELIX. I'VE GOT ALL I NEED TO KNOW. COME ON!
PAF!


HEY!
BOOM!
IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO GET YOU DOWN
I FEEL READY TO DROP....
OBVIOUSLY THE GAULS HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE THE HOSTAGE BACK HOME
AND SOMETHING WE SAID MUST HAVE TOLD THEM WHERE HE LIVES...
SO WE'D BETTER NOT MENTION IT TO OUR COMMANDING OFFICER...
THAT'S RIGHT! LET'S GET BACK UP OUR TREES!
18A
WE'RE NOT NUTS!
AND WHILE EVERYONE AT TOTORUM SEEMS HAPPY...
I SHALL SOON BE REJOINING MY GARRISON IN HISPANIA. I'M NOT NEEDED HERE ANY LONGER. THE GAULS KNOW THEY'RE BEING WATCHED. THEY WON'T MAKE ANY MOVE
YOU CAN TRUST MY MEN! THEY DON'T GO BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE!
... BACK AT ROME, CAESAR'S TRIUMPH IS A HUGE SUCCESS, AND EVEN HIS CAPTIVE AUDIENCE CAN SCARCE FORBEAR TO CHEER .....
Capitol! Capitol!
AND CAESAR, DELIGHTED BY THE APPLAUSE OF THE CROWD, MAGNANIMOUSLY SETS THE BARBARIAN CHIEFTAIN FREE
I SUPPOSE IT'S BECAUSE HE'S CLAPPED IN CHAINS
YES, IT WAS A CHAIN REACTION
18B

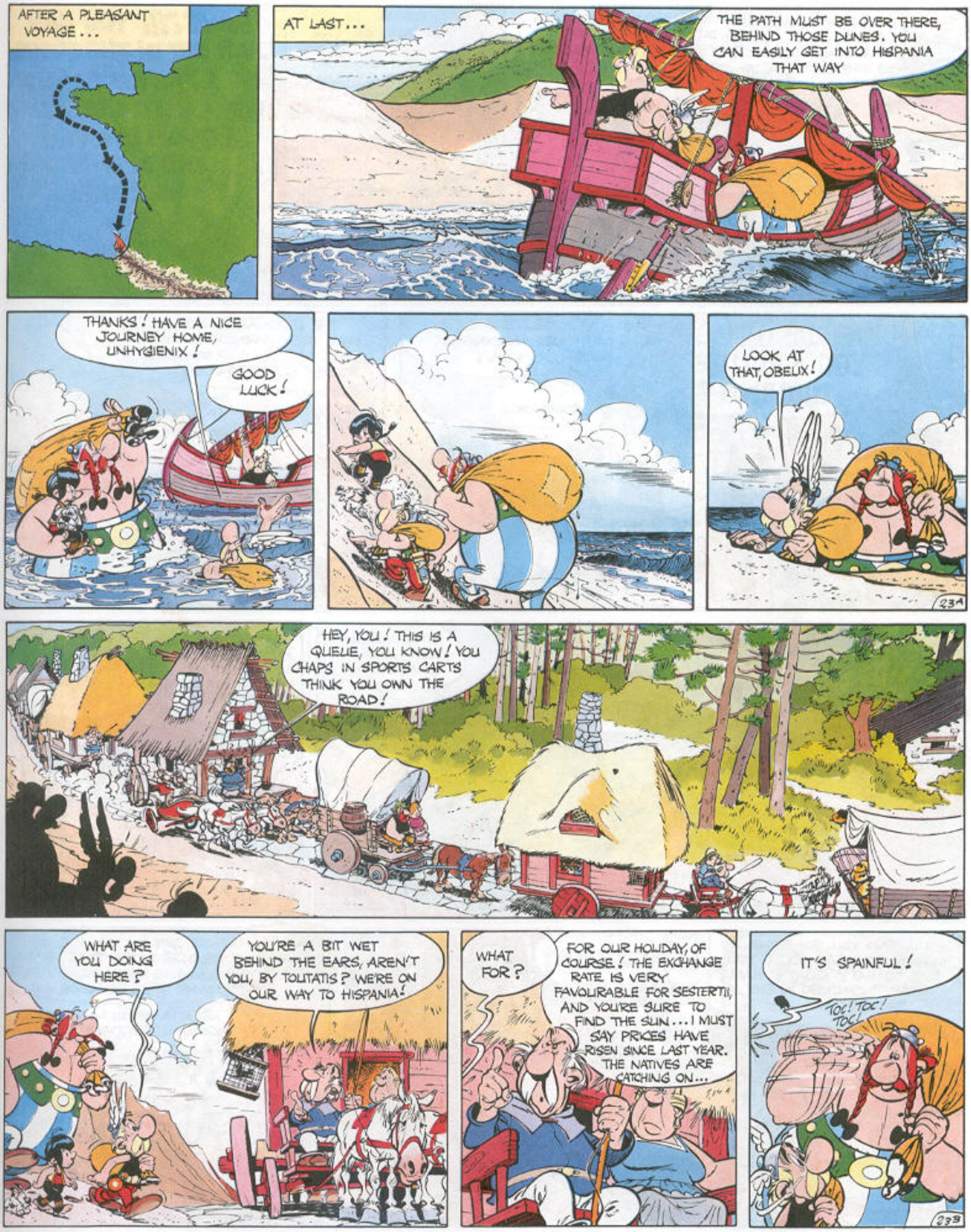

OF COURSE, YOU TWO WILL BE TAKING PEPE HOME. YOU MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET HIM RUN ANY RISKS!
THE BEST WAY TO GET TO THE HISPANIAN FRONTIER WOULD BE BY BOAT. IF WE WENT BY ROAD THE ROMANS COULD GIVE US A BIT OF BOTHER
BUT WHERE CAN WE GET A BOAT?
UNHYGIENIX HAS A FISHING-BOAT. HE CAN TAKE US
HM... IT'S JUST THAT HE'S BEEN IN RATHER A BAD MOOD LATELY...
HUH! LET'S GO AND SEE HIM. A FISHING-BOAT IS JUST WHAT WE WANT. NOBODY TAKES ANY NOTICE OF IT
UNHYGIENIX
FISHMONGER
UNHYGIENIX
FISHMONGER
19A
FISHMONGER
NO, NO! WE HAVEN'T COME TO HIRE ANY FISH THIS TIME
WE'VE COME TO HIRE YOUR BOAT
?!?
I-DO-NOT HIRE-OUT-FISH!!!
YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT! THERE'S MORE FUTURE IN HIRING OUT BOATS
HE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW. PEOPLE ARE SO CARELESS! THE STATE THEY RETURN THEIR FISH IN!...
?
LET ME EXPLAIN WHAT WE WANT
LATER...
VERY WELL, BUT I'D LIKE TO BE PAID IN MENHIRS. IT SO HAPPENS I'VE JUST INHERITED SOME PROPERTY IN BRITAIN, AND I WANT TO DEVELOP IT *
* THE FACT THAT UNHYGIENIX'S PROPERTY WAS LOCATED ON SALISBURY PLAIN SUGGESTS A SOLUTION TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS THAT HAVE MYSTIFIED SO MANY SCHOLARS
19B


GET READY, PEPE. WE'RE TAKING YOU HOME
¿IS DOGMATIX COMING WITH US?
NO! HE'S TOO LITTLE FOR THIS VOYAGE
SO YOU'RE BEING SENSIBLE AT LAST, OBELIX!
ANYWAY, THEY LOOK AT ME TOGETHER AND THEY GIGGLE!
SOON AFTERWARDS...
HERE'S YOUR GOURD OF MAGIC POTION, ASTERIX
THANKS, O DRUID GETAFIX!
BUT OF COURSE I DON'T GET ANY BECAUSE GNGNA GNK
PEPE, GIVE YOUR FATHER MY REGARDS, AND TELL HIM I HOPE HE SUCCEEDS IN HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ROMANS
¡HOMBRE! ¡YOU REALLY DO HAVE A BIG NOSE!
20A
I THINK THE TIME HAS NOW COME FOR ME TO GIVE YOU A...
SPLAAASH!
SMACK! I HAVE NO REGRETS ABOUT HIRING THIS ONE!
GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK, BOYS!
WOOF!
¡SSH, HOMBRE!
20B

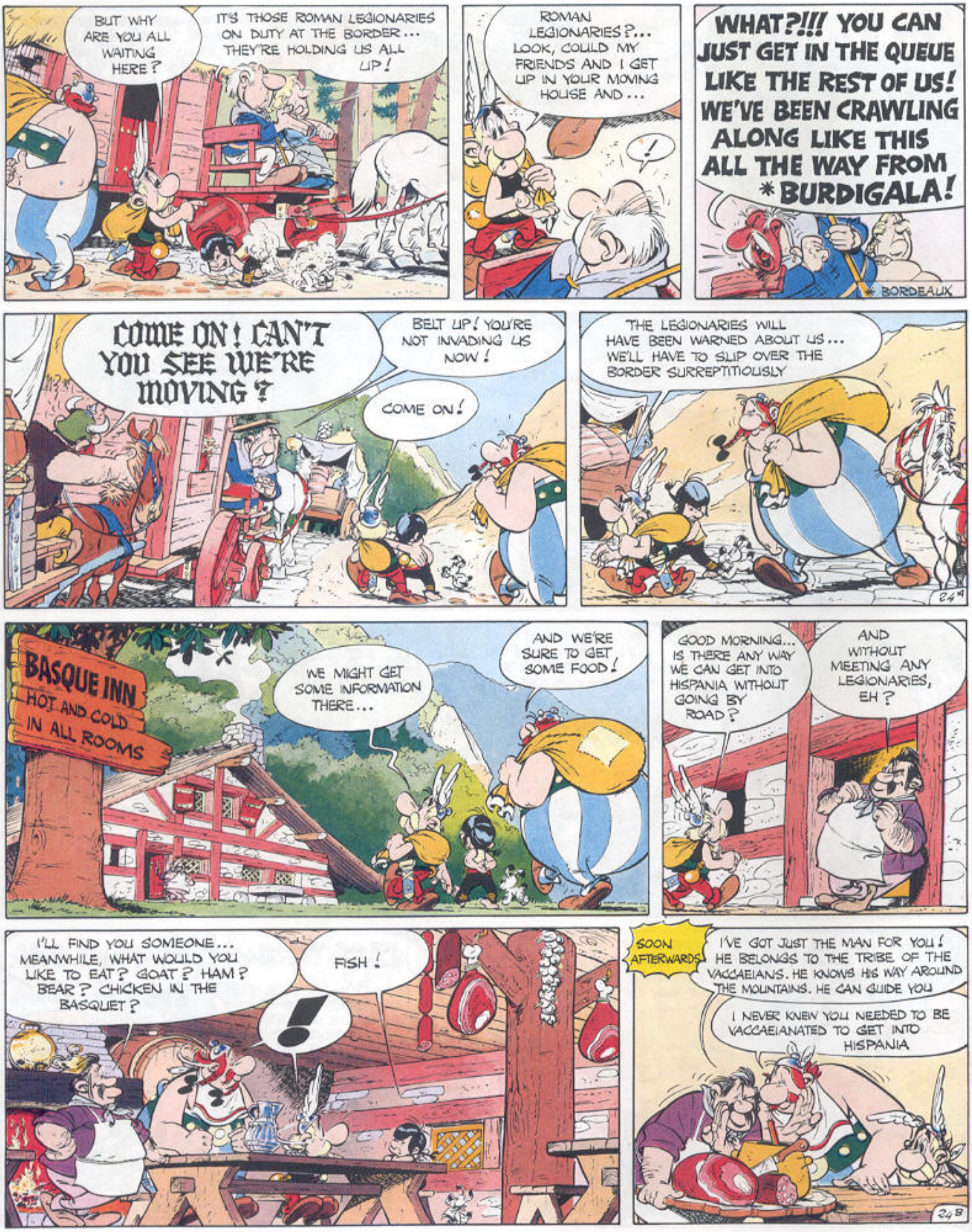

LOOK, ASTERIX! HE'S BROUGHT DOGMATIX! WE MUST TURN BACK!
WE CAN'T DO THAT, OBELIX. WE HAVE A FOLLOWING WIND; WE MUST MAKE THE MOST OF IT
SEE WHAT I MEAN? THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN!
HAHAHA
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
WHAT DO WE EAT ON THIS VOYAGE, UNHYGIENIX?
FISH, OBELIX. WE'LL CATCH IT AS WE NEED IT
WE ALWAYS SEEM TO BE ON ABOUT FISH THESE DAYS!
¡ I WANT BOAR!
YOU'LL EAT WHAT'S PUT IN FRONT OF YOU!
HEY! A SAIL!
WE COULD ASK THEM FOR PROVISIONS...
OBELIX, DON'T BE SO PIG-HEADED!
¡ IF WE DON'T, I'M GOING TO HOLD MY BREATH, HOMBRE!
!?!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! AFTER ALL, WE REALLY SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT SOMETHING TO EAT... COME ON, UNHYGIENIX, LET'S GO!
ONLY A FISHING BOAT... JUST SMALL FRY. BUT THERE MAY BE A CATCH IN IT
CAN'T YOU SEE ANYONE WE COULD ATTACK?
HUH! IT'S NOT WORTH BOTHERING WITH. WE'VE JUST TAKEN ON STORES AND WE'RE FULL OF SALT WILD BOAR!
THAT FISHING-BOAT'S ALTERED COURSE! SHE'S BEARING DOWN ON US!!!



WHAT'S THAT? BEARING DOWN ON US?
WE WONDERED IF BY ANY CHANCE YOU COULD...
LOOK! IT'S THE PIRATES!
THE GAULS!!!
GLUG! GLUG! GLUG! GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!
NOW THEN, OBELIX, WE'RE HERE TO GET SOME STORES. WE MUSTN'T BREAK ANYTHING
I KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE!
THIS IS A BIT LIKE GOING SHOPPING
22A
THAT'S HOW IT'LL BE SOME DAY... SHOPS WHERE YOU SERVE YOURSELF. YOU WON'T HAVE TO KEEP BEATING THE SHOPKEEPERS DOWN...
SOON AFTERWARDS...
AND THE FIRST ONE TO MAKE ANY FUNNY REMARKS WILL BE BAIT!!!
I KNEW THERE'D BE A CATCH IN IT SOMEWHERE! THIS IS NOT QUITE MY LINE!
22B



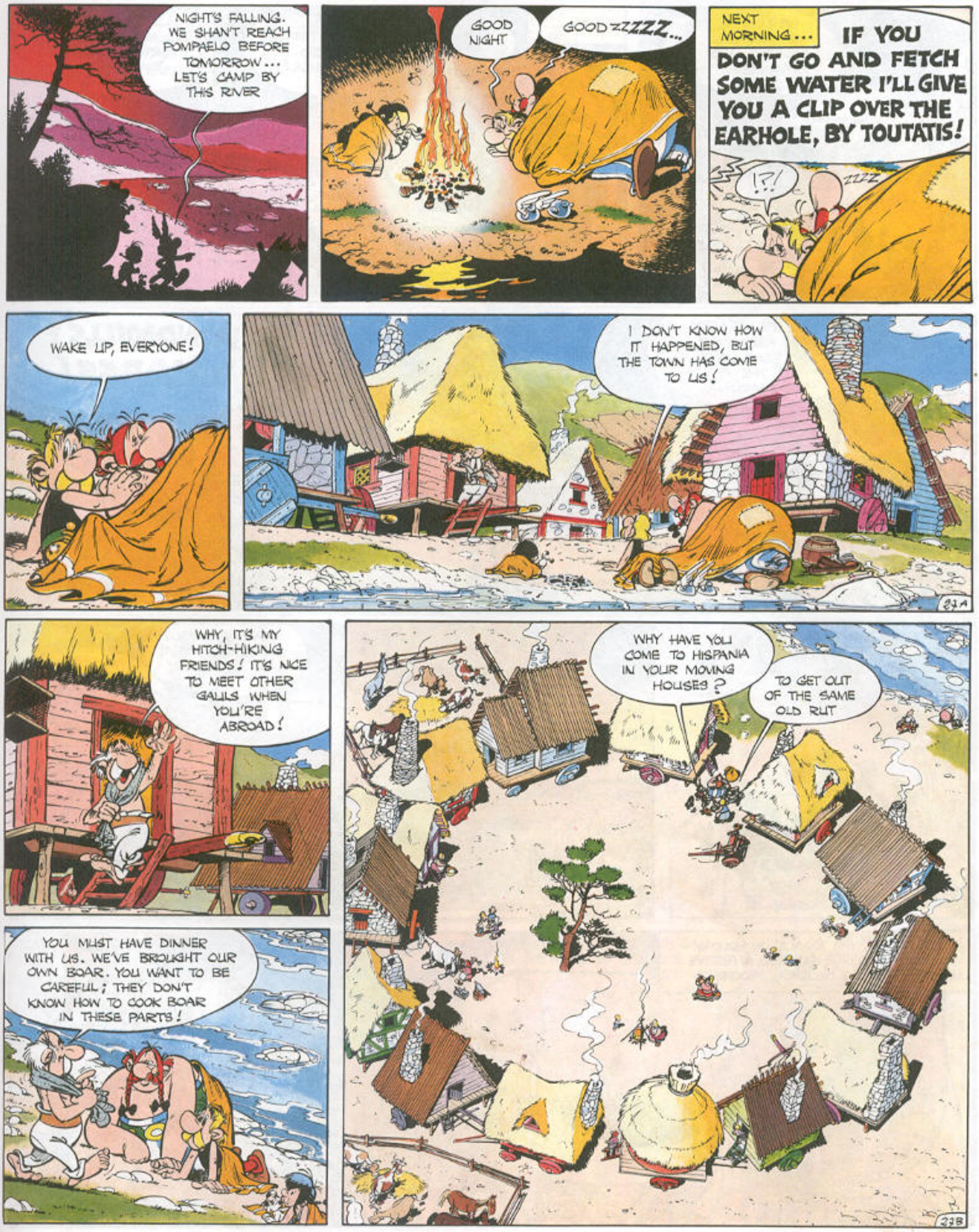
AFTER A PLEASANT VOYAGE...
AT LAST...
THE PATH MUST BE OVER THERE, BEHIND THOSE DUNES. YOU CAN EASILY GET INTO HISPANIA THAT WAY
THANKS! HAVE A NICE JOURNEY HOME, UNHYGIENIX!
GOOD LUCK!
LOOK AT THAT, OBELIX!
HEY, YOU! THIS IS A QUEUE, YOU KNOW! YOU CHAPS IN SPORTS CARTS THINK YOU OWN THE ROAD!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU'RE A BIT WET BEHIND THE EARS, AREN'T YOU, BY TOUTATIS? WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO HISPANIA!
WHAT FOR?
FOR OUR HOLIDAY, OF COURSE! THE EXCHANGE RATE IS VERY FAVOURABLE FOR SESTERTII, AND YOU'RE SURE TO FIND THE SUN... I MUST SAY PRICES HAVE RISEN SINCE LAST YEAR. THE NATIVES ARE CATCHING ON...
IT'S SPAINFUL!
TOC! TOC! TOC!



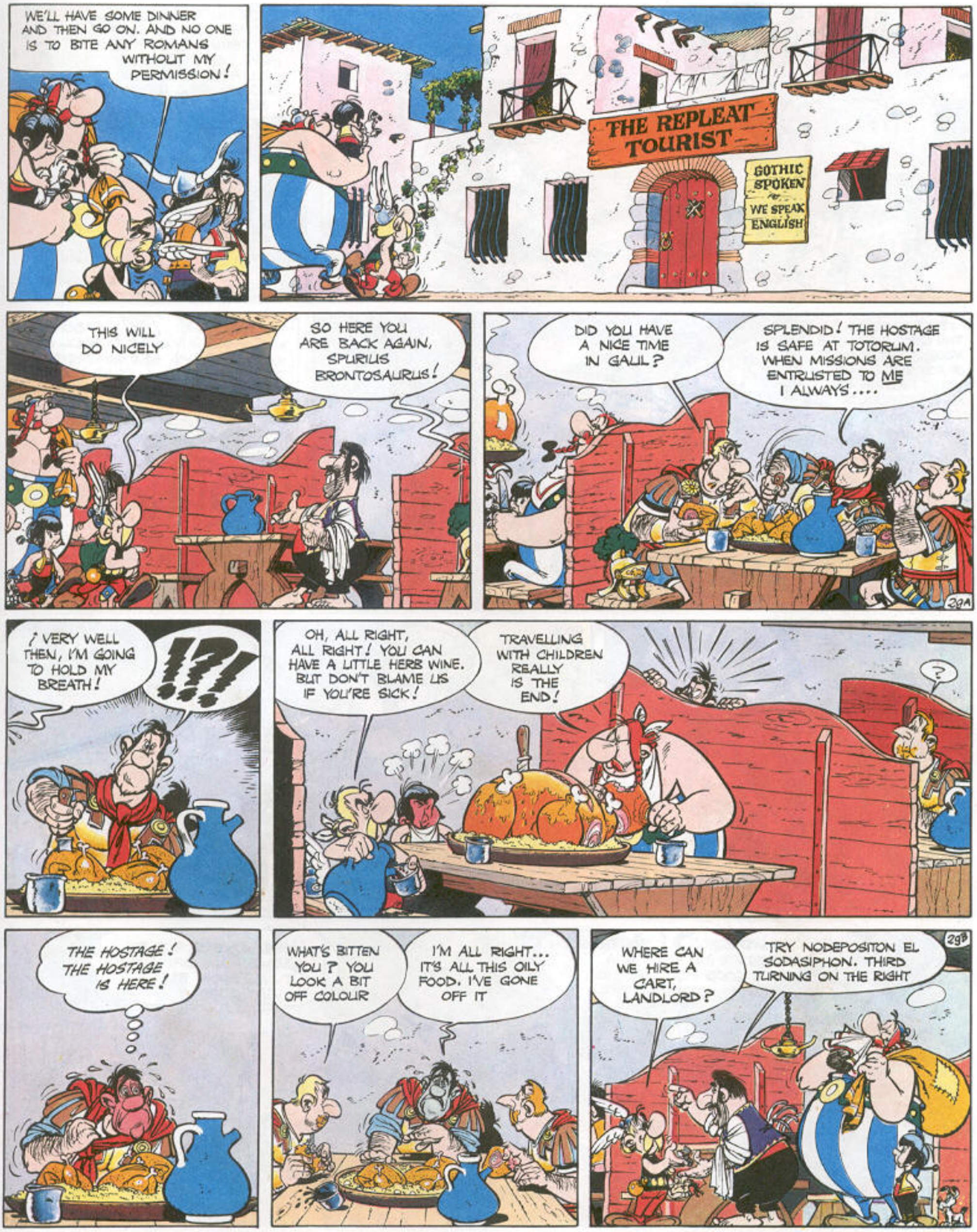
BUT WHY ARE YOU ALL WAITING HERE?
IT'S THOSE ROMAN LEGIONARIES ON DUTY AT THE BORDER... THEY'RE HOLDING US ALL UP!
ROMAN LEGIONARIES?... LOOK, COULD MY FRIENDS AND I GET UP IN YOUR MOVING HOUSE AND...
!
WHAT?!!! YOU CAN JUST GET IN THE QUEUE LIKE THE REST OF US! WE'VE BEEN CRAWLING ALONG LIKE THIS ALL THE WAY FROM *BURDIGALA!
* BORDEAUX
COME ON! CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE MOVING?
BELT UP! YOU'RE NOT INVADING US NOW!
COME ON!
THE LEGIONARIES WILL HAVE BEEN WARNED ABOUT US... WE'LL HAVE TO SLIP OVER THE BORDER SURREPTITIOUSLY
24A
BASQUE INN
HOT AND COLD IN ALL ROOMS
WE MIGHT GET SOME INFORMATION THERE...
AND WE'RE SURE TO GET SOME FOOD!
GOOD MORNING... IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN GET INTO HISPANIA WITHOUT GOING BY ROAD?
AND WITHOUT MEETING ANY LEGIONARIES, EH?
I'LL FIND YOU SOMEONE... MEANWHILE, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT? GOAT? HAM? BEAR? CHICKEN IN THE BASQUET?
FISH!
!
SOON AFTERWARDS
I'VE GOT JUST THE MAN FOR YOU! HE BELONGS TO THE TRIBE OF THE VACCAEIANS. HE KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND THE MOUNTAINS. HE CAN GUIDE YOU
I NEVER KNEW YOU NEEDED TO BE VACCAEIANATED TO GET INTO HISPANIA
24B

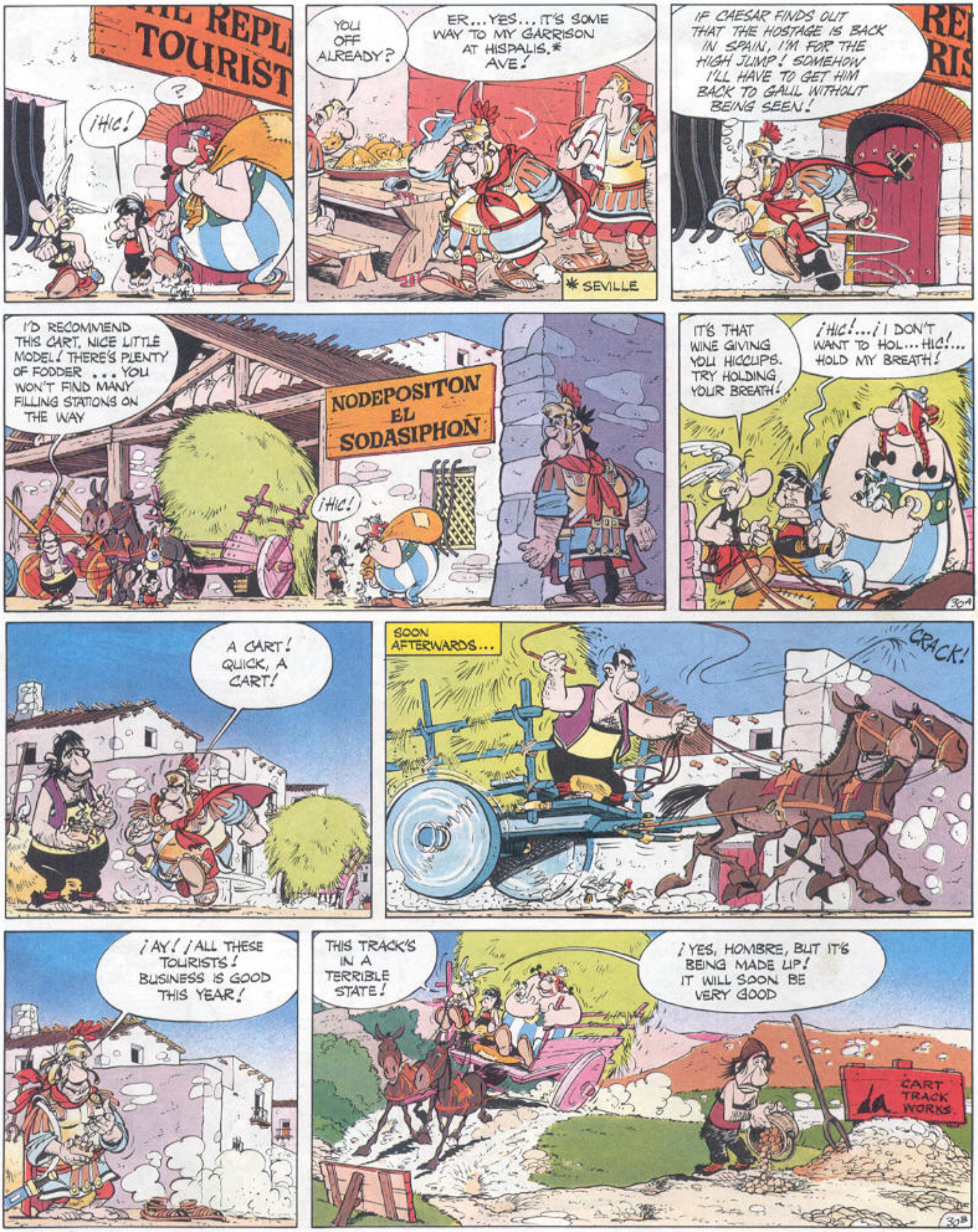

HERE'S YOUR MAN!
FIVE SESTERTII PER PERSON PER TRIP
RIGHT! LET'S START AT ONCE
WELL THEN, THAT'LL BE TEN SESTERTII EACH. DOUBLE FARE IN DAYTIME. IT'S MORE DANGEROUS BY DAY; THERE ARE PATROLS OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS
SOON AFTERWARDS....
NOT A SOUND!
A PATROL! FIVE MEN!
25A
HIDE! KEEP QUIET!
GRRRR!
!DOGMATIX!
¡LET GO OF HIM!
DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH HIM!
LOOK, A LITTLE DOG!
EXCUSE ME! I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE
25B


EEK! OUCH! HELP!
CLANG!
BONG!
COMING!
YOU'VE GOT NO MANNERS AT ALL!
¡IT'S NOT BAD MANNERS TO BITE ROMANS!
THERE! SEE WHAT A BAD INFLUENCE HE IS?
WHEN YOU'VE QUITE FINISHED ARGUING, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
LET'S GET GOING, O VACCAEIAN! WE DON'T WANT TO RUN INTO ANY MORE ROMANS!
WAIT FOR ME! HEY, WAIT FOR ME!
LATER, ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN...
COME ON, THEN! WE'RE WAITING!
IT'S JUST THAT... PUFF! PUFF!... YOU DIDN'T GO THE USUAL WAY. I'M LOST
ANYWAY, YOU'RE IN HISPANIA! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GO STRAIGHT ON DOWN, AND YOU'LL BE IN POMPAELO*
HERE'S YOUR MONEY
* PAMPLONA
NO, YOU DON'T OWE ME ANYTHING! I'VE JUST DECIDED TO RETIRE! AFTER TODAY, I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF STORIES TO TELL MY GRANDCHILDREN IN THE LONG WINTER EVENINGS!
WELL, HERE WE ARE IN YOUR NATIVE LAND, PEPE! ARE YOU HAPPY?
¡AY, ASTERIX! ¡EVEN THE ROMANS TASTE BETTER HERE! ¡OLÉ!


NIGHT'S FALLING. WE SHAN'T REACH POMPAELO BEFORE TOMORROW... LET'S CAMP BY THIS RIVER
GOOD NIGHT
GOOD ZZZZZ...
NEXT MORNING...
IF YOU DON'T GO AND FETCH SOME WATER I'LL GIVE YOU A CLIP OVER THE EARHOLE, BY TOUTATIS!
!?!
ZZZZ
WAKE UP, EVERYONE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT THE TOWN HAS COME TO US!
27A
WHY, IT'S MY HITCH-HIKING FRIENDS! IT'S NICE TO MEET OTHER GAULS WHEN YOU'RE ABROAD!
WHY HAVE YOU COME TO HISPANIA IN YOUR MOVING HOUSES?
TO GET OUT OF THE SAME OLD RUT
YOU MUST HAVE DINNER WITH US. WE'VE BROUGHT OUR OWN BOAR. YOU WANT TO BE CAREFUL; THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO COOK BOAR IN THESE PARTS!
27B


WE MUST BE GETTING ON! GOODBYE, AND THANKS!
LATER...
IT'S HOT!
¡ I'M TIRED, ASTERIX!
I'LL ASK THESE TWO LOCALS IF IT'S MUCH FURTHER TO THE TOWN
NO, IT'S NOT VERY FAR. KEEP RIGHT ON, BEAR LEFT AT THE WINDMILLS...
¿ WINDMILLS? ¡CHARGE!
¡ HEY! ¡HOMBRE! ¡ HE'S AT IT AGAIN! ¡ WAIT FOR ME!
?
THAT'S POMPAELO OVER THERE... WHAT A LOT OF PEOPLE!
THE TOWN MUST BE ON HOLIDAY
SURE ENOUGH, THE TOWN IS ON HOLIDAY, AND THE PEOPLE HAVE GATHERED, IN FESTIVE MOOD, TO WATCH THE DRUIDICAL PROCESSION


WE'LL HAVE SOME DINNER AND THEN GO ON. AND NO ONE IS TO BITE ANY ROMANS WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!
THE REPLEAT TOURIST
GOTHIC SPOKEN
WE SPEAK ENGLISH
THIS WILL DO NICELY
SO HERE YOU ARE BACK AGAIN, SPURIUS BRONTOSAURUS!
DID YOU HAVE A NICE TIME IN GAUL?
SPLENDID! THE HOSTAGE IS SAFE AT TOTORUM. WHEN MISSIONS ARE ENTRUSTED TO ME I ALWAYS....
¡ VERY WELL THEN, I'M GOING TO HOLD MY BREATH!
!?!
OH, ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! YOU CAN HAVE A LITTLE HERB WINE. BUT DON'T BLAME US IF YOU'RE SICK!
TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN REALLY IS THE END!
?
THE HOSTAGE! THE HOSTAGE IS HERE!
WHAT'S BITTEN YOU? YOU LOOK A BIT OFF COLOUR
I'M ALL RIGHT... IT'S ALL THIS OILY FOOD. I'VE GONE OFF IT
WHERE CAN WE HIRE A CART, LANDLORD?
TRY NODEPOSITON EL SODASIPHON. THIRD TURNING ON THE RIGHT



THE REPL
TOURIST
¡HIC!
?
YOU OFF ALREADY?
ER... YES... IT'S SOME WAY TO MY GARRISON AT HISPALIS.* AVE!
* SEVILLE
IF CAESAR FINDS OUT THAT THE HOSTAGE IS BACK IN SPAIN, I'M FOR THE HIGH JUMP! SOMEHOW I'LL HAVE TO GET HIM BACK TO GAUL WITHOUT BEING SEEN!
I'D RECOMMEND THIS CART. NICE LITTLE MODEL! THERE'S PLENTY OF FODDER ... YOU WON'T FIND MANY FILLING STATIONS ON THE WAY
NODEPOSITON EL SODASIPHON
¡HIC!
IT'S THAT WINE GIVING YOU HICCUPS. TRY HOLDING YOUR BREATH!
¡HIC!... ¡I DON'T WANT TO HOL... HIC!... HOLD MY BREATH!
A CART! QUICK, A CART!
SOON AFTERWARDS...
CRACK!
¡AY! ¡ALL THESE TOURISTS! BUSINESS IS GOOD THIS YEAR!
THIS TRACK'S IN A TERRIBLE STATE!
¡YES, HOMBRE, BUT IT'S BEING MADE UP! IT WILL SOON BE VERY GOOD
CART TRACK WORKS


AFTER SEVERAL HOURS' DRIVING ...
¡THERE ARE SOME NOMADS! I LIKE NOMADS, THEY'RE FUNNY. THEY'RE ALWAYS SINGING AND DANCING
WELL THEN, LET'S STOP AND ASK THEM TO PUT US UP FOR THE NIGHT
¡HEY THERE, FRIENDS! ¡COME AND SIT BY THE FIRE AND WE'LL ALL LAUGH AND BE MERRY!
31 A
¡AYAYAYAYYYYY WOOOOE IS MEEEEE! ¿AYAYAYAYYYYY WHY DID SHEEEEEE LEEEEEEAVE MEEEEEEEEE? ¡AYAYAYAYAYAYYYYYYYYY!
CLAP CLAP! CLAP!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¡LET THE MERRYMAKING CONTINUE! ¡NOW FOR SOME DANCING!
CLAPACLAP! CLAPACLAP!
OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
CLAPACLAPACLAPACLAPACLAPACLAP
¡OLÉ!
TAP! TAP! TAP!
¡OLÉ! ¡OLÉ!
CLAPACLAP!
¡OLE!
¡OLÉ, GORGEOUS! ¡COME ON, STICK YOUR CHEST OUT!
CLAPACLAP!
¡AM! IT'S JUST SLIPPED A BIT!
CLAC!
31 B



WE'RE GOING TO BED NOW. WE'RE TIRED, AND WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO
WE USUALLY GO ON DANCING AND SINGING ALL NIGHT, BUT WE'LL LET YOU GET SOME REST
CLAPA CLAP
GOOD NIGHT, GORGEOUS!
¡OLÉZZZZZZ ZZZZZZZZ!
ZZZZZ
SOON AFTERWARDS...
THIS IS MY CHANCE! I'LL GRAB THE HOSTAGE AND MAKE OFF!
ZNNNNNNN
YOWWWWWL!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
?
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¿AYAYAYAYAY, WHERE IS SHEEEEE? ¡AYAYAYYYYY IIII SHALL LIIIIIE DOWN AND DIIIIIE!
CLAPACLAPACLAPACLAPACLAPACLAPACLAPACLAPACLAPACLAPACLAPACLAP
¡OLÉ! ¡OLÉ! ¡OLÉ! ¡OLÉ! ¡OLÉ! ¡OLÉ! ¡OLÉ! ¡OLÉ!


NEXT MORNING, OUR FRIENDS CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY....
IT'S A GOOD THING WE'VE GOT MORE SENSE THAN THOSE TWO SPECIMENS, DOGMATIX!
RRRRRRONNNNN!
ZZZZZZ!
WOOF!
EEEEEEK!
¡OLÉ!
CRASH!
AY, AY, AY! AND NO SPARE WHEEL EITHER!
THERE'S A CART COMING
33A
WE NEED HELP. COULD YOU DRIVE US TO THE NEAREST BREAKDOWN WHEEL-WRIGHT?
THE GAULS!
GRRRRR!
DOGMATIX! AREN'T YOU SATISFIED WITH ROMANS THESE DAYS? YOU MUSTN'T GO BITING PEOPLE TOO!
¡HE MAY BE A ROMAN! I'VE SEEN THAT FACE SOMEWHERE BEFORE
I THINK I HAVE TOO
GRRRR
WHERE DO YOU COME FROM, FRIEND?
I...ER...BY JUPI... OH, NOWHERE! I'M A NOMAD! A HAPPY NOMAD, HOMBRE!
¡OLÉ! ¡OLÉ! ¡WOOOOE IS MEEEEE!
CLACLACLACLAC
ANY GOOD?
¡NOT VERY, BUT HIS KNEES MAKE A NICE ACCOMPANIMENT!
33B


RIGHT, THEN. OUR MISTAKE... NOW, IF YOU'D BE KIND ENOUGH TO TAKE ONE OF US TO THE NEAREST BREAKDOWN...
FINE! I'LL TAKE THE LITTLE BOY!
NO, WE NEVER LET PEPE OUT OF OUR SIGHT! WE'LL ALL GO, IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU
A PLEASURE! ¡OLÉ!
FOILED!
LET'S INTRODUCE OURSELVES. I'M ASTERIX
I'M OBELIX
WOOF!
¡ HUEVOS Y BACON !
I'M... ER... I'M OLOROSO EL FIASCO
SOON AFTERWARDS...
THIS IS WHAT WE WANT
OFF YOU GO, BOTH OF YOU! PEPE AND I WILL WAIT
FODDER STATION
CARTS REPAIRED
NO, WE'LL ALL THREE OF US GO WITH PEPE!
OH, ALL RIGHT! I'LL GO ON MY OWN
LISTEN... THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO NEED A CARTWHEEL. I DON'T WANT YOU TO GIVE THEM A CARTWHEEL. IF THEY COME HERE, JUST TELL THEM YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CARTWHEEL
!
AND HERE'S SOME MONEY FOR THE CARTWHEEL!
?
!?
¡ BUT HOMBRE, THIS WON'T WORK! ¡ I HAVEN'T GOT ANY CARTWHEELS NOT TO GIVE YOU! ¡ I'M RIGHT OUT OF STOCK! I'LL HAVE TO ORDER THEM, AND THAT TAKES TIME...


WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE FINDING WHEELS TO REPAIR YOUR CART... I'M GOING TO HISPALIS. I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT IF YOU'RE GOING THAT WAY
YES, WE ARE, AND WE'LL BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT
IT'LL BE A POOR DO IF I CAN'T MANAGE TO DISTRACT THEIR ATTENTION AND GET HOLD OF THE LITTLE HOSTAGE!
CART-TRACK WORKS
AND IN THE COURSE OF A LONG AND INTERESTING JOURNEY, OUR LITTLE COMPANY PASSES THROUGH THE CITY OF CAUCA* WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE ON HOLIDAY...
*COCA
... AND THE CITIES OF SEGOVIA*...
*SEGOVIA
... HELMANTICA*..
*SALAMANCA
... AND CORDUBA*. BUT SPURIUS BRONTOSAURUS IS OUT OF LUCK, FOR ASTERIX, OBELIX AND DOGMATIX NEVER RELAX THEIR VIGILANCE FOR A MOMENT
*CORDOBA

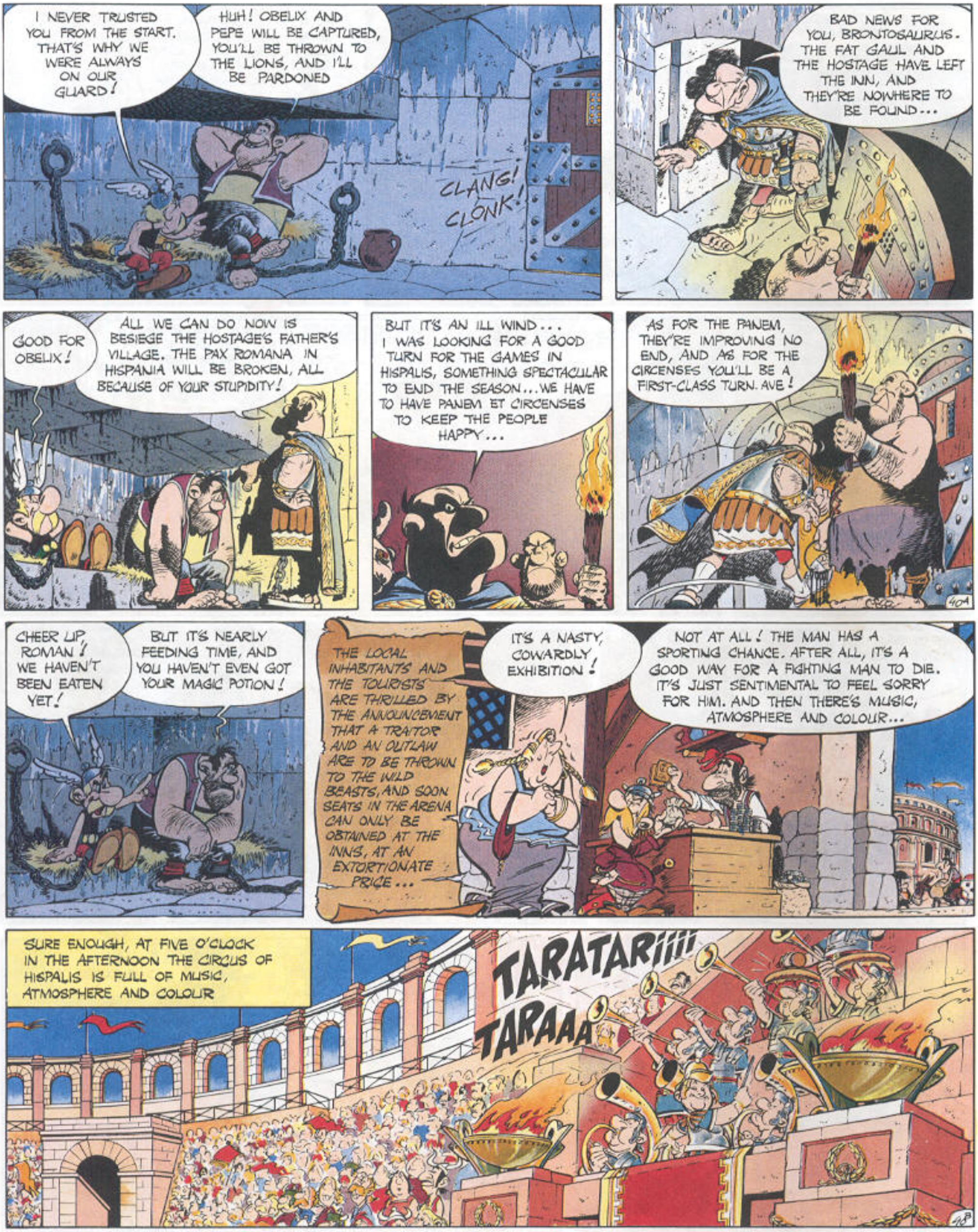


WE'LL BE IN HISPALIS TOMORROW. IT'S MY LAST CHANCE. AFTER THAT, PEPE WILL BE BACK WITH HIS FATHER, AND MY MILITARY CAREER WILL BE ENDING UP ON THE SAND OF THE ARENA!
STAND AND DELIVER!
?!?
JUST A MOMENT, NOBLE FOREIGNERS. ¡YOU ARE GOING TO HAND OVER ALL YOUR PROPERTY! ¡WE ARE BANDITS, AND I'M SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WE TOO HAVE TO MAKE A PROFIT FROM THE TOURIST SEASON!
SHALL WE GET THEM?
I WANT TO GET THEM TOO!
I'M THE ONE WHO'S GETTING THEM!
WHY DON'T YOU BOTH GET THEM, AND I'LL LOOK AFTER PEPE!
¡COME ON, HOMBRES! WE'RE NOT ON HOLIDAY, EVEN IF YOU ARE. ¡WE CAN'T WAIT HERE ALL DAY!
OBELIX, YOU STAY WITH PEPE. PEPE! BREATHE! JUST A DROP OF MAGIC POTION, AND I'LL GET THEM!
POF! POF! POF!
36A
GLUG! GLUG! GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!
?
¡HAND IT OVER!
THERE YOU ARE!
COME ON, MEN!
¡OLÉ!
WHAM!
¡OLÉ!
AFTER A SHORT AND UNEQUAL BATTLE...
¡THE TOURISTS ARE FULL OF BEANS THIS YEAR!
YES, OUR COOKING MUST HAVE IMPROVED NO END
THE MAGIC POTION THAT GIVES SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH! THE FAMOUS MAGIC POTION! IT'S MY LAST CHANCE!
36B


NIGHT HAS ALREADY FALLEN WHEN OUR FRIENDS ARRIVE IN HISPALIS, THE CAPITAL OF VANDALUSIA. THE MAGNIFICENT CITY IS FULL OF GAIETY. IT IS A HOLIDAY!
YOU'RE IN LUCK; I'VE GOT TWO ROOMS LEFT, NEXT DOOR TO EACH OTHER
I'M GOING TO SLEEP IN DOGMATIX'S ROOM
ME TOO!
ROOMS
ALL RIGHT, THEN, WE'LL SHARE THE OTHER ONE
SPLENDID! SPLENDID BY JUPI... BY OLÉ!
DINNER IN THIS TYPICAL VANDALUSIAN INN IS A CHEERFUL OCCASION
The roads are improving, They're working on them!
A proud and haughty race!
Thin-skinned!
Attractive prices, but they're rising
They've cottoned on!
The cooking's much better these day's
TODAY'S MENU IS SAUSAGE, SAUERKRAUT AND BEER
LET'S GO TO BED... WE SAY GOODBYE TOMORROW, MY DEAR AMONTILLADO EL AMOROSO!
OLOROSO EL FIASCO
GOOD NIGHT
GOOD NIGHT
NOW FOR THE MAGIC POTION! THEN I'LL BE THE STRONGEST, AND I CAN GET HOLD OF PEPE AND TAKE HIM BACK TO GAUL


FISH? YOU MUST BE OFF YOUR ROCKER! WHERE DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO GET FISH AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE MAGIC POTION?
DOGMATIX! BREATHE! KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF THIS!
STOP THIEF!
38A
SCHLANG!
BRONTOSAURUS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IN CIVVIES?
THE DOPE! THE DOPE! THE DOPE!
INSULTING ME ARE YOU? ME, YOUR OLD COMRADE IN ARMS?
THAT GAUL! DON'T LET HIM GET THE DOPE!
HMM... THIS IS AS CLEAR AS MUD! LET'S GO AND SEE THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
38B


SOON AFTERWARDS, IN THE C-IN-C'S OFFICE...
WELL, BRONTOSAURUS? YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF A HOSTAGE, AND NOW I FIND YOU BACK HERE, IN CIVVIES, KICKING UP A ROW... I SUPPOSE THE HOSTAGE IS SAFE IN GAUL, EH?
HE STOLE THE HOSTAGE, HE DID, ALONG WITH HIS ACCOMPLICES! IF YOU HURRY YOU'LL FIND HIM ASLEEP IN THE 'TYPICAL VANDALUSIA' INN WITH A BIG FAT GAUL!
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT... GO AND FIND THE HOSTAGE, AND HAVE THESE TWO THROWN INTO PRISON!
WHAT IS THIS DOPE?
O GENERAL, I RATHER THINK IT'S SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT MAGIC POTION- THE ONE KNOWN ONLY TO A LITTLE TRIBE OF GAULISH BARBARIANS...
IT IS SAID TO GIVE GREAT STRENGTH!
YOU DON'T SAY!
GLUG! GLUG GLUG! GLUG! GLUG GLUG
COME HERE, OBSEQUIUS, MY DEAR FELLOW
THIS IS A REAL HIT FOR OBSEQUIUS!
PAF!
?
EXCELLENT, OBSEQUIUS! YOU'VE DONE VERY WELL!
?
?
SHANKSH, O SHENERAL!


I NEVER TRUSTED YOU FROM THE START. THAT'S WHY WE WERE ALWAYS ON OUR GUARD!
HUH! OBELIX AND PEPE WILL BE CAPTURED, YOU'LL BE THROWN TO THE LIONS, AND I'LL BE PARDONED
CLANG! CLONK!
BAD NEWS FOR YOU, BRONTOSAURUS. THE FAT GAUL AND THE HOSTAGE HAVE LEFT THE INN, AND THEY'RE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND...
GOOD FOR OBELIX!
ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS BESIEGE THE HOSTAGE'S FATHER'S VILLAGE. THE PAX ROMANA IN HISPANIA WILL BE BROKEN, ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR STUPIDITY!
BUT IT'S AN ILL WIND... I WAS LOOKING FOR A GOOD TURN FOR THE GAMES IN HISPALIS, SOMETHING SPECTACULAR TO END THE SEASON... WE HAVE TO HAVE PANEM ET CIRCENSES TO KEEP THE PEOPLE HAPPY...
AS FOR THE PANEM, THEY'RE IMPROVING NO END, AND AS FOR THE CIRCENSES YOU'LL BE A FIRST-CLASS TURN. AVE!
CHEER UP, ROMAN! WE HAVEN'T BEEN EATEN YET!
BUT IT'S NEARLY FEEDING TIME, AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN GOT YOUR MAGIC POTION!
THE LOCAL INHABITANTS AND THE TOURISTS ARE THRILLED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A TRAITOR AND AN OUTLAW ARE TO BE THROWN TO THE WILD BEASTS, AND SOON SEATS IN THE ARENA CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED AT THE INNS, AT AN EXTORTIONATE PRICE...
IT'S A NASTY, COWARDLY EXHIBITION!
NOT AT ALL! THE MAN HAS A SPORTING CHANCE. AFTER ALL, IT'S A GOOD WAY FOR A FIGHTING MAN TO DIE. IT'S JUST SENTIMENTAL TO FEEL SORRY FOR HIM. AND THEN THERE'S MUSIC, ATMOSPHERE AND COLOUR...
SURE ENOUGH, AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON THE CIRCUS OF HISPALIS IS FULL OF MUSIC, ATMOSPHERE AND COLOUR
TARATARiiii
TARAAA


I THINK YOU'LL ENJOY THIS, MY DEAR BEGONIA
I HOPE SO, GENERAL. IT'S SO HOT IN THESE PROVINCIAL TOWNS... I SHOULDN'T HAVE PUT THIS CLOAK ON
HERE COME THE VICTIMS!
LOOK DIGNIFIED, BRONTOSAURUS! SHOW THEM WHAT WE'RE WORTH!
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THEY'VE BEEN ROBBED!
LET YOUR LIONS LOOSE, ROMAN!
WE DON'T HAVE LIONS HERE, GAUL...
THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE!
AN AUROCHS! A WILD AUROCHS!
GAUL! DO SOMETHING, BY JUPITER!!!
AUROCHS! HERE, AUROCHS, BY TOUTATIS!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
¡OLÉ!
?
¡OLÉ!


MY CLOAK! MY LOVELY BRAND-NEW CLOAK!
I'LL SAVE IT FOR YOU, MA'AM!
THE AUROCHS! WATCH OUT! THE AUROCHS!
KEEP OFF, YOU NASTY CREATURE! YOU'LL GET IT ALL DIRTY!
¡OLÉÉÉÉÉ!
THIS IS GETTING TO BE A HABIT, BY BELENOS!
¡OLÉÉÉÉ!
THAT'S ENOUGH, NOW! SIT!
¡OLÉÉÉÉ!
HERE'S YOUR CLOAK, MA'AM. I'LL THROW IT UP!
HOW CHIVALROUS HE IS... JUST WAIT TILL I TELL MY FRIENDS IN ROME ABOUT THIS...
WATCH OUT!
BRRROOOOOOOM!
PAF!


SEND IN ANOTHER AUROCHS, ROMAN. THIS ONE'S FINISHED
NO! I ASK PARDON FOR THIS BRAVE AND CHIVALROUS MAN!
GRANTED! I CAN REFUSE NOTHING TO THE HALF-SISTER OF JULIUS CAESAR'S COUSIN BY MARRIAGE
¡OLÉÉÉ!
PARDON THIS MAN TOO!
VERY WELL, BUT HE'S DISMISSED FROM THE ARMY
I'M GOING TO MAKE MY CAREER IN THE ARENA! SPURIUS BRONTOSAURUS IS NO MORE! THIS IS EL HISPANIES, THE * AUROCHERO!
¡OLÉÉÉÉÉ!
* NOT AUROCHEADOR, AS IT IS OFTEN MISTAKENLY EXPRESSED
THANKS TO THE DIRECTIONS GIVEN BY THE GRATEFUL BRONTOSAURUS, ASTERIX ARRIVES AT PEPE'S VILLAGE, WHICH IS BEING BESIEGED BY THE ROMANS
ASTERIX! HERE I COME!
OBELIX!
WASH OUT! IT LOOKSH ASH IF THEY'RE GOING TO BREAK OUT!
ASTERIX! I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED!
TCHRAAA
COME ON! LET'S GET BACK TO THE VILLAGE! THEY'RE ALL WAITING FOR YOU!
WASH OUT! IT LOOKSH ASH IF THEY'RE GOING TO BREAK IN AGAIN!
SURE ENOUGH...
RIGHT, LESHIONARIESH! WE'LL HAVE A SHANGE OF SHTRATESHY! WE'LL BUILD FORTIFIED CAMPSH ALL ROUND THE VILLASHE, AND KEEP WASH, AND NOT SHTART ANY FIGHTSH, BY SHUPITER!


I SAW YOU LEAVE THE INN YESTERDAY; I WAS JUST GOING OUT TO FIND SOME FISH FOR PEPE. BUT I LOST SIGHT OF YOU. SO I THOUGHT THE FIRST THING TO DO WAS GET PEPE TO SAFETY. LUCKILY HE KNEW THE WAY TO HIS VILLAGE!
¡AY! ¿HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU, FRIENDS?
IT WAS NOTHING, CHIEF HUEVOS Y BACON... WE'LL BE OFF HOME NOW
¡I DON'T WANT THEM TO GO!
¡YOU'VE LOOKED AFTER HIM SO WELL...HIS CHEEKS ARE AS ROSY AS EVER!
GOODBYE, PEPE! WE'LL BE BACK! THAT'S A PROMISE!
YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF ROMANS TO PLAY WITH NOW. ¡THAT'S A PROMISE, HOMBRE!
SNIFF!
SNIFF!
AND AFTER A LONG AND PEACEFUL JOURNEY, OUR FRIENDS RETURN TO THE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE, WHERE THEY RECEIVE THEIR USUAL ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME... AND CACOFONIX THE BARD, FOR ONCE, IS HAPPY!
AAAYYYYY, WOOOE IS MEEE! AAAAYYY, IIII SHALL DIIIE!
A FISH, A FISH, MY KINGDOM FOR A FISH!
CLAK! CLAK!
CLAK!
GRMPHFFHEEHEE!
UDERZO & GOSCINNY